The Somerset Herald.

WEDNESDAY. - - - February 24, 1875.

WHEELING is to be the future capital of the State of West Virginia, a bill for the removal from Charleston to that place having passed both branches of the Legislature.

THE Republican and Democratic State Committees are both called to meet at Harrisburg on the 4th of March to fix the time for holding the State conventions. It is thought that both conventions will be held early this year, probably in May or June.

THE Democracy of the West Virginia Legislature has elected Allen T. Caperton U. S. Senator. Of course he was a rebel or he could not have been elected by Democratic votes. He was a Senator in the rebel Congress that sat in Richmond in 1863.

THE revenue bill pending in Congress, proposes to repeal the stamp tax on matches, and yet, singular as it may appear, a delegation of prominent match manufacturers has been at Washington opposing the repeal of the stamp duty on matches. Who can honestly account for the milk in that cocoa nut?

THE President has issued his proclamation convening the Senate in extra session on the 5th day of March next. It is conjectured that this extra session has been called for the purpose of taking action on the proposed Hawaiian, and possibly on a new treaty being negotiated with Spain.

THE wisdom of mid-winter elections was beautifully illustrated on Tuesday of last week. With the thermometer below zero all over the State, and the roads and streets in an almost impassable condition, the old, the infirm, in fact all but the very robust and determined, were literally disfranchised by the continued efforts of Jack Frost, and the Solons of the late Constitutional Convention. Glorious reform! these February elections

THE long contest in the Minnesota Legislature over the election of a U. S. Senator ended on Friday last by the defeat of the present Senator, Ramsey, and the election of Hon. S. J. McMillan, now Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of that State. Judge McMillan is a pronounced Republican, and received the votes of all the Republican and many of the Democratic members of the Legislature on the last ballot.

THE new revenue bill which proposes to increase the tax on whiskey from 70 cents to $1 per gallon, and on cigars from $5 to $6 per thousand still hangs fire in the House, but will probably be passed this week. In anticipation of the passage of this bill there has been an immense demand among distillers for stamps at the present rate of tax, but as yet we hear of no movement among the cigar manufacturers to anticipate the rising of the tax on their commodity.

AND now the liquor men in our Legislature are as cross as cross-cut saws. By bungling mismanagement the bill for the repeal of the local option law—almost certain to pass if a square vote on it can be obtained in both Houses—has been again postponed. And here is the best ice we have had for twenty years, and receding prospects of the "ardent" wherewith to mix their juleps, cocktails and smashes during the coming hot summer. No wonder their parched throats are dry—with indignation.

THE result of the local elections in this State last week has given the Democracy the cold chills. Everywhere the Republicans have gained largely on the vote of last year, and aggregating the results, have carried the State by a heavy majority. The blatherskites who have been boasting of electing a Democratic Governor next fall don't feel quite so sure of it just now. Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, Harrisburg, Lancaster, and Reading have all been carried by the Republicans, and our Democratic friends are consequently unhappy, and those of them who are holding seats in the Legislature from these Republican districts are tearfully contemplating a final adieu to their very temporary honors.

THE old quarrel between the Baltimore & Ohio and the Pennsylvania Central Railroads has again broken out, and mutual throat-cutting is the order of the day. Freight rates from the east to the west are merely nominal—it being alleged by eastern papers that freights are being carried from Baltimore to Chicago as low as eight cents. Passenger rates have also been largely reduced. Tickets from Pittsburgh to Baltimore and Washington being sold at $6, and to Philadelphia at $8, and from Baltimore to Chicago and Cincinnati at $10. The Pennsylvania road refuses to give the B. & O. access to New York over its New Jersey lines, and the latter road is running a line of fast steamers between Baltimore and New York for the transportation of its freights. While this fight is ruinous to the interests of the roads it is meat to shippers and travellers.

THE elections of last week open the campaign of 1875 most auspiciously. Everywhere throughout the State victory has been seized by the Republicans. Allegheny county—lost last fall through petty local wrangles—has redeemed herself. Philadelphia, notwithstanding the "reformers" polled 12,000 votes, gave a Republican majority of over 12,000, elected 22 Republicans to 7 Democrats to Select, and 55 Republicans to 15 Democrats to Common Council, and chosen 18 Republican to 6 Democratic police magistrates, all that could be secured under the Buckalew limited voting system engrafted in the new Constitution. Harrisburg, Reading, Lancaster and other important cities elected Republican officials, and throughout the State the Republicans have everywhere regained all and more than they lost last fall.

Amid the reverses of last year, we never for a moment lost our faith in the fixedness of Republican principles in the old Keystone, and we thought then and we are certain now that our defeat was a blessing in disguise.

Flushed with their unexpected victories, the Democracy imagined a vain thing, and crazed with a taste of power, which they foolishly fancied was permanent, they played such fantastic tricks, not only in our own, but in other State Legislatures, and so flaunted their murderous and bandit qualities throughout the lately rebellious States, that the voters, startled and disgusted with an exhibition of sentiment and conduct which they fondly hoped had passed away with the downfall of the rebellion and the enfranchisement of all our people, promptly and wisely determined to recall the little power with which they have been entrusted. Pennsylvania is again firmly anchored in the safe harbor of Republicanism, and all that is needed to insure us a sweeping majority in next November, is good candidates and thorough and intelligent work and organization. The folly of last year is not likely to be repeated in this State within the next decade.

LESS than a month is left of the time allotted for the session of this Legislature, and yet, so far, the House has only passed four bills. At this ratio, about four more can be passed, and what a magnificent result would be accomplished by this "reform Legislature"! The Senate is well up with its business, but the House hobbles along with the pace of a tortoise. The result will be that at the heels of the session a vast amount of crude and unlicked legislation must be rushed through by this body, or it will have to adjourn without passing the necessary bills, and an extra session will have to be held at vast expense to the State. A politically adolescent Speaker, a mob of members, and a vicious, whooping Democratic majority are the chief causes of this disgraceful condition of affairs. We trust, now that the late election has "knocked the noise" out of the cock-a-whoop gentry who control that body, that some attention will be given to legislation for the balance of the session.

PENNSYLVANIA LEGISLATURE.

HARRISBURG, PA., Feb. 15, 1875.

SENATE.

The following bills passed first reading:

Relating to change of venue in civil cases

Appropriating money for the propagation and protection of fish.

Fixing the salaries of judges.

Providing for printing the railroad report of the Auditor General.

Joint resolution authorizing the Clerk to purchase Purdon's Digests.

Authorizing the settlement of claims against the Constitutional Convention.

Repealing the supplement relating to county treasurers.

Providing for transferring awards of arbitrators.

Authorizing appeals from assessments to the courts.

Authorizing the use of unclaimed bodies of convicts for the promotion of medical science.

Enabling assignees to sell incumbered real estate.

Regulating the bringing of suits against the Commonwealth.

Fixing and regulating the terms of all members of Councils and all city, ward, borough and township officers excepting school directors elected by the people.

Relating to game and game fish; relating to the commencement of the term of law judges.

HOUSE.

The Indiana township road law and the bill authorizing the Supreme Court to appoint officers, lost on second reading last Thursday, were reconsidered and postponed for the present.

The session was occupied in offering resolutions on various subjects of no importance, debating and calling the yeas and nays until ten o'clock, being a siege of filibustering by the opponents of Local Option repeal, who held a caucus early in the evening, and who thus succeeded in preventing Mr. Toner's bill from coming up on the first reading, until Wednesday week.

HARRISBURG, PA., Feb. 16, 1875.

SENATE.

The following passed the second reading:

An act authorizing the town council in incorporated boroughs to vacate streets, lanes and alleys, subject to appeal to the Court of Qarter Sessions.

An act authorizing the judges of the several courts, throughout the Commonwealth to fix the number of regular terms of said several courts, and the times for holding the same, the time for summoning the Grand Jury and for the return of constables, aldermen and justices of the peace of the same.

An act to provide for the erecting of water troughs for the use of horses and cattle on the public roads of this Commonwealth.

An act to correct an error in designating the Judicial districts composed of the counties of Wyoming and Sullivan, and fixing a correct number to the same.

An act relating to the official acts of foreign notaries public.

An act to regulate the practice of medicine, surgery and obsterics in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

An act relating to venue in civil cases.

Joint resolution authorizing the Clerk of the Senate to procure three copies of Purdon's Digest for the use of the Senate, amended so as to give one copy to each Senator and clerk.

An act declaratory of the true intent of section sixty-six of the act to consolidate, revise and amend the penal laws of this Commonwealth, approved May 31, A. D. 1860.

An act enabling assignees for the benefit of creditors to make sales of real estate encumbered by liens.

An act to provide for the refunding and redemption of the existing indebtedness of counties, cities, boroughs, townships, school districts or other municipalities or incorporated districts evidenced by bonds or certificates issued prior to the 20th day of April, A. D. 1874.

The following passed first reading:

Forbidding the pollution of streams, lakes and water courses.

Relative to banks incorporated under the laws of the State, authorizing them to receive deposits.

Relative to the commencement of term of office of judges.

The following were read in place:

Mr. Newmyer—Supplement to the Mechanics' lien law, extending it to material furnished by sub-contractors.

Mr. Alexander—Imposing a State license of three hundred dollars to pawnbrokers.

Mr. Cooper—To protect children in the right to learn trades.

Mr. Jones—Exempting pianos from execution; also prohibiting the falsification of medical professional certificates.

Mr. Rutan—To repeal all general laws creating or renewing charters of corporations provided for by the Corporation act of last year.

Mr. Wallace—To enlarge the powers of courts to grant, alter and amend charters; also for the inspection of steam boilers.

The Free Pipe bill was objected to by Mr. Jones of Philadelphia, but will come up to-morrow in regular order.

HOUSE.

The following bills were read in place:

Mr. Christy—Making an appropriation for Dixmont Hospital; also for the expenses of the Ohio River Commission; also substituting a poll-tax for taxes on trades.

Mr. Long—Relative to the support and employment of the poor in cities of the third class.

Mr. Stewart—Relating to the appointment of auditors by Orphans' courts.

Mr. Mylin—Fixing the standard weight of bark.

Mr. Barrett—Making an appropriation for the Pennsylvania Reform School.

Mr. O'Neill—Regulating pawnbrokers' licenses.

Mr. Brown—Authorizing the appointment of stenographers in courts.

Mr. Hays—Empowering councils of cities to prescribe certain salaries.

Mr. Brown—Supplement to the $300 exemption law, prohibiting waiver.

The following passed first reading:

Providing for the publication of the tenth volume of the Transactions of the State Agricultural Society; Relating to the courts of the State; Relating to judgment and stay of execution; Supplement to the Free Banking law of 1860; Christy's Ohio River Improvement bill.

The bill exempting agricultural machinery from taxation was recommitted.

The act with reference to salaries of county treasurers was lost.

Mr. Morgan, of Lawrence, made a minority report in the Ringgold case, protesting against the jurisdiction of a committee of the House. After some debate, the Speaker decided the minority report not in orders, for the reason that the majority had made no report, and the matter was dropped for the present.

SENATE.

HARRISBURG, February 17, 1875.

A large number of petitions were presented.

The following were reported favorably: To create a State Board of Health; Supplement to the act authorizing courts to appoint stenographers and fix their compensation; To authorize State banks to become national; Prescribing the punishment for writing threatening letters; Requiring magistrates, taking bail, to enter on the information the residence and property of the bail; Exempting hired pianos from distress for rent; Authorizing president judges to appoint reporters and fix their compensation; To protect children in the right to acquire useful trades; Relative to the pavement of streets in cities and the manner of payment therefor.

The following bills were read in place:

Mr. Wallace—To validate conveyances made by wives with the knowledge of ther husbands.

Mr. Yutzy—Regulating railroad charges on roads less than fifteen miles long.

Mr. Newmyer—For the equitable valuation of real estate in cities of the third class; also limiting the time for killing hares or rabbits.

The following passed finally and were sent to the House:

An act ceding jurisdiction to the United States over certain land in Bucks county to be used as a cemetery.

An act to provide a remedy for irregularity in the sealing up of jury wheels and in the custody thereof.

An act to enable the sheriff of any county wherein a jury wheel is in use, and has become unfit for use, to remove the contents of said wheel and place the same in a new wheel.

An act to provide for the erecting of watering troughs for the use of horses and cattle on the public roads of this Commonwealth.

HOUSE.

The bill relating to the compensation of county treasurers, which was defeated on first reading yesterday, was reconsidered.

At the afternoon session the new county bill was made the special order for Tuesday evening.

The following passed first reading: Relating to judicial sales and the preservation of liens of mortgages; Regulating the amount of toll to be collected by boom companies.

The bill repealing the Local Option law was again on the calendar, some members still contending that it was improperly so.

Mr. Christy raised the point of order that a motion to recommit was still pending and the clerk had no authority to put the bill on the calendar.

The Speaker submitted the point to the House, and it was discussed until half-past five, when Mr. Morgan, of Lawrence, moved to adjourn. Lost—yeas 35, nays 141.

Mr. Toner moved to extend the hour of adjournment until the subject was disposed of. Lost—yeas 77, nays 65.

The House adjourned at six o'clock. The motion to recommit and Mr. Christy's point of order are now pending. Things are mixed worse than ever.

HARRISBURG, PA., Feb. 18. 1875.

SENATE.

The following bills were read in place:

Mr. Maclay—Limiting to one year the time for the payment of notes given for patent rights.

Mr. Watson—Providing for making and repairing township roads; also to secure stricter accountability of public officers; also relative to school taxes and debts for school purposes.

Mr. Coliban—Limiting the amount of school tax.

The following bills were reported favorably:

Relative to judicial sales and martgage liens.

Extending the General Corporation act to improvement companies.

The following were reported negatively:

Abridging the time for killing quail.

Relative to the taxation of banks and savings institutions.

Mr. Strang offered a joint rule that the unfinished business of this session shall not go over to the next. Laid over.

The following were passed finally and sent to the House:

An act to authorize change of venue in criminal cases.

An act to authorize the judges of the several courts throughout the Commonwealth to fix the number of regular terms of said several courts, and the times for holding the same, the time for summoning the grand jury, and for the return of constables, aldermen and justices of the peace to the same.

A supplement to an act entitled an act relative to courts in this Commonwealth, approved May 4, A. D., 1852.

An act to regulate the practice of medicine, surgery and obstetrics in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

The bill to provide for the incorporation and regulation of insurance companies, passed second reading.

The bill to permit defendants to testify in criminal cases was under discussion at the hour of adjournment. At the afternoon session the debate was continued till six o'clock, when the Senate adjourned without reaching a vote.

HOUSE.

The following bills passed finally:

Act repealing the proviso in section 1 of last year's law relating to the maintenance of soldiers' orphans.

Senate supplement to the law of 1874 in relation to limited partnerships.

The following passed second reading:

Relative to days of grace on negotiable paper.

Defining the offence of kidnapping.

Declaring the trustees of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church the legal successors of the Trustees of the Presbyterian House, and authorizing the latter corporation to transfer the property held to the former.

Supplement authorizing writs of *quo warranto* in certain cases.

Providing for the surrender of the franchises of turnpike or plank road companies upon portions of their roads within borough or city limits.

Supplement to confer upon courts the power to annex the land, or parts thereof, of persons resident in one district to another district for school purposes.

Mr. Long presented a petition of 500 coopers; also memorials from the Pittsburgh Chamber of Commerce, Refiners' Association, and resolutions of the Allegheny Councils favoring the Free Pipe Line bill.

HARRISBURG, PA., Feb. 19, 1875.

SENATE.

The following bills were reported favorably from committees:

Authorizing cities to levy one per cent. on fire insurance premiums for fire departments.

Substituting poll tax for personal tax.

Relative to the payment of costs in cases of felony.

For the removal of county seats.

Amending the third section of the Legal holiday act.

The following were read in place:

Mr. Stanton—Relating to landlords and tenants of houses at coal mines.

Mr. Stanton—For the adjustment of disputes between operators and operatives at mines or iron works.

Mr. Chalfant—To prevent fraud on or by hotel or boarding house keepers.

Mr. Russey—Regulating the sale and manufacture of patent medicines.

The following passed finally:

Joint resolution providing for the printing of the report of the Auditor General on Railroads.

An act enabling assignees, for the benefit of creditors, to make sales of real estate encumbered by liens.

An act to provide for the incorporation and regulation of insurance companies.

The joint resolution authorizing the Clerk of the Senate to procure three copies of Purdon's Digest for the use of the Senate, was postponed for the present.

The bill authorizing the town council in incorporated boroughs to vacate streets, lanes and alleys, subject to appeal to the Court of Quarter Sessions, and relating to and authorizing changes of venue in civil causes, were amended and laid over.

The bill to permit defendants to testify in criminal cases, was made the special order for Wednesday next.

The Senate adjourned till Monday night.

HOUSE.

James L. Marshall was sworn as Representative from the Third district of Philadelphia, in place of Mr. Fagan, deceased.

A large number of petitions were presented relating to the Pipe law, for and against the repeal of the Local Option law and favoring an appropriation for a State homeopathic insane hospital.

The motion to recommit the Local Option Repeal bill to the Judiciary Local Committee and the bill itself, were made the special order for Wednesday evening next—yeas 122, nays 62.

A resolution for an adjournment over Washington's birthday until Tuesday evening was lost—yeas 71, nays 94.

The General Appropriation bill was reported from committee.

The House adjourned till Monday evening.

Some Disappointed Vigilants.

ST. LOUIS, February 16—A special from Topeka, Kansas, says that near Helena, Colorado, on the 8th inst., thirty vigilants went to the house of one Gibbs, and on his refusing to deliver himself to them to be hung, set fire to the house, in which were Gibbs, two women and several children. Gibbs leaped out through the flames with a revolver and shot three of them dead and wounded a fourth, when the rest took to their heels and fled. Gibbs had recently been acquitted on a charge of murder, and the vigilants proposed to take a summary appeal from the decision which set him at liberty.

OUR NEW YORK LETTER.

NEW YORK, Feb. 15, 1875.

BEECHER-TILTON.

SIR: I suppose I shall have to write these words about forty times more, the exasperating fact being that this everlasting trial will continue at the rate it is progressing about forty weeks.

Tilton is now on the stand, and for a week has been examined, cross-examined, and examined in every other way that lawyers know of, and yet nothing has come of it all that the people did not know before. All that has been brought out the people were made aware of a year ago in the "statements" made by the parties connected with this wretched business. This week the proceedings have been nothing more nor less than a series of duels between Tilton and his opposing lawyers, in which neither have shown to advantage. Tilton's answers to questions have been either the smallest of small wit, or grandiose orations on matters entirely foreign to the subject in hand, and Evarts seemed to be be inspired with a crazy desire to rival him in repartee. There is nothing new in the trial, and will not be till Beecher gets on the stand. Then something may be expected.

By the way, why isn't Henry C. Bowen, the editor of the *Independent*, on the stand? He knows more about this business than any living man, for he has not only been the confidant of both, but he has been the confidant of everybody who knew anything connected with the two principals. Everybody who ever had anything to say against either came to Bowen with it first. Possibly he knows too much for either party to want him on the stand. Possibly he could tell more than either of them would want made public.

THE ARCTIC SEASON.

The weather has been colder here than has been known for years. The river between the foot of Cortland street and Jersey City has been filled with ice for the first time in thirty years, and ice bridges across the East River are almost of daily occurrence. Ferries are in a continual state of stoppage, and the oaths and curses one hears from the pinched and half-frozen people, who wait for hours for a boat to get to Brooklyn or Jersey City, are frightful to hear. The experience this winter will do more toward hurrying the great bridge to completion than all the newspapers could do in a century.

A SORRY STORY.

Monday morning a young woman—a supernumerary in Booth's Theater, fainted during the rehearsal of the play. Her sister actress raised her, and carried her to the green-room, and when she revived, told her story as best she could. She had not eaten a morsel of food for three days, and her fainting was the result of nothing but starvation. Of course, food was given her, and of course a collection was made for her, and then her ghastly story came out. Her husband was a scene-shifter in the theater, but had been down with consumption for nearly a year. She had a mother, also an invalid, and four children, all of whom she had to support, and the pay on which all this had to be done was six dollars a week. Think of it; rent, food, fuel, medicines, clothing, for seven people, two of them invalids, to be provided out of six dollars a week, and that pittance to be earned by one little woman—not twenty-one years of age, from one of the most precarious of professions. The family were living in the top of the house, in one room, the house so badly built that the wind whistled through the cracks with about as much freedom as it would on an Iowa prairie, and no fire. The poor woman couldn't get fuel for heat, and she never had food enough to make it necessary for cooking. The sick husband and sick mother lay on wretched pallets with scarcely any covering, and another wretched pallet sufficed for the younger mother and her four children. All the day they lay in that horrible nest for warmth, and to that horrible nest the overworked mother came at twelve at night, when her exhausting labors were completed at the theater.

This is one case in twenty thousand, only this poor woman had the good luck to faint with her hunger at a time and place where her distress excited pity and brought her relief. Had she fainted in her garret, she would have died as hundreds do every day. It is terrible.

THE LABOR QUESTION.

The worst side of the labor troubles is shown in the present strike of the hands in a stone-cutting yard up town. The men in the same business in Newark and Philadelphia have but $2.50 for a day's work of ten hours, and the men employed on the Capitol at Albany have not more than $3.60 for the same hours. The Journeymen Brown-Stone-Cutters' Association prohibits its members from working for less than $4 50 a day's work of eight hours. The firm in question have large contracts, and being able to employ more hands than they have at present, engaged some men who applied for work at a less rate. These men became dissatisfied after working with the other hands, and complained to the Association, who fined the firm $100, with notice that in default of payment the hands would be ordered on strike. This was paid under protest, as work was pushing; but it was not long before another fine of $100 was ordered, on complaint of an employee belonging to the society, that he had been defrauded out of a day's wages. The firm refused to pay the fine, and their men, as ordered by the society, went on strike. The firm soon had over twenty outside men at work at the same hours and wages as before, but declare that under no circumstances will they employ society men. In consequence the strikers have sent threats to the firm of burning its property, and went so far as to assault a teamster drawing stone from the yard, striking him in the face and knocking him down. The arbitrary rulings of the Stone-Cutters' Association will go far toward breaking up the business, so important, in this city. Its terms must seem exorbitant in these times, and whatever, without just cause, which these men cannot complain of, throws men into idleness, and robs their families of their full earnings, must be looked upon as mischievous, and an evil to be sternly resisted and suppressed. It is a singular thing that men dependent on their daily bread, should attempt to control their employers, with the thermometer below zero, and with thousands upon thousands of men out of employment and eager for work. But it is so.

EXPRESS VS. POST.

The Express Companies are very much stirred up about the new system of Postal Carriages, by which packages, not over four pounds weight, can be sent by mail, at the rate of a cent for each two ounces. A new system, I called it, but it has been on trial for nearly two years, and the public are just waking to a sense of its benefits, as the Express monopolies are trying to take it from them. It would seem as if there was sufficient field left for them in transporting large packages, and they might reasonably leave this convienent arrangement to profit both government and people. The convenience of the postal-package system to the public needs but a glance to be seen at its true value. Families remote from anything worthy the name of stores or supplies, can order samples and have orders filled by mail at the expense of only 9 cents a pound, to any part of the country. That this is appreciated, the books of the New York merchants tell. The packages sent from a single house, by this system, amounted to hundreds of thousands of dollars in value, the last year, and every dollar's worth of this paid its tribute to the revenues of the Post-office Department, which needs assistance to constantly establish new routes, as fast as new settlements are made, instead of gorging the over-rich express companies. For years the companies have steadily fought down every effort for cheap transportation, lest it should wrest from them part of their enormous profits, and they are asking the repeal of this pleasant kindly Postoffice law, which extends its good to every hamlet in the United States. If the Postoffice can afford to carry tons and tons of newspapers, books and pamphlets, at the rate of a cent for two ounces, and finds profit in doing so, there is no reason why it should not extend this work to any description of dry goods and reap the benefit of it. If the excellencies of this law are once understood, people will no more hear of its repeal than they will of going back to old-fashioned postage, at 25 cents a letter. I applied for some information on this point, to a firm who were among the first to take pains to inform their customers of the convenience of sending by mail. They say that they can send, within the prescribed weight, in one package, 20 yards of tafetta silk of good quality, and of the lower grades from 25 to 30 yards. Of gros grain, at $2 to $3.50 per yard, 20 yards. Of Lonsdale muslin, 14 yards, of New York Mills, 13 yards, and the same of Wamsutta. Lonsdale cambric being much lighter, 20 yards could be sent. While the weight of each parcel sent through the mail is restricted to four pounds, the number of parcels that can be sent is unlimited, so that any number of yards of fabric can be sent by post, by being cut into lengths that would suit the purchasers.

If there were any doubt which side would win in this trial of strength between monopoly and the people, it would call for as strenuous and organized action on the part of the latter as any question that has come up for years past. Every express company is a monopoly in its locality; and the enormous charges on goods sent to distant States and Territories, operate to shut off those people from any but a local market, with all its disadvantages of high price, poor quality, etc. I have been surprised at hearing the objection seriously made by disinterested parties that they did not see the use of the Government being made a common carrier. Such an old-fogy remark hardly deserves the ready answer that if the Government sees its way clear to making the work pay—which it must or the system would speedily be repealed—there can be no reason why it should not do the people so eminent a service, that being precisely what governments and postoffice departments are for. It is all well enough to talk of competition being powerful enough to regulate charges, but we all know what that means. Start a new express or telegraph company to-morrow, and one of two things is certain to happen; either the old companies buy up the new companies, or the old and new combine to lay additional burdens on the people. The Government is the only relief the people have.

HOMES FOR POOR PEOPLE.

New York, down town, is full of great tall buildings, the upper stories of which are scarcely used at all. Some benevolent people are urging upon the proprietors thereof to convert the upper floors into dwellings for the poor, and it ought to be done. It is a terrible hardship for a poor man to travel four miles, night and morning, to his work, to say nothing of the hole the fare makes in his wages. It gets him out of his bed in the morning an hour and a half earlier than is necessary, and keeps him out of it the same time at night. But think, you who have nice homes, of an improvement in a man's condition that means going up to the top of a six-story building to live!

PIETRO.

Railroad Accident.

PHILADELPHIA, February 19.—The Pennsylvania Railroad furnishes the following: Train No. 5, east bound, on the Pan Handle Road, which left Columbus at 6:25 last evening, was thrown from the track about four miles west of Steubenville at 3 o'clock this morning, caused by a broken rail. A special car on the train, containing Mr J. N. McCullough, Vice President of the Pennsylvania Company, and Mr. William Stewart, General Freight Agent, was thrown over in the ditch, and taking fire was entirely destroyed. Mr. McCullough and Mr. Stewart both sustained slight injuries.

FURTHER PARTICULARS.

PITTSBURGH, Feb. 19.—By the accident this morning on the Pan Handle Road, one baggage, two passenger, one special, and two sleeping cars were thrown over an embankment and burned—the fire originating in a special car. The baggage was destroyed. The following persons are reported injured: Harvey Mann, of Bellefonte, Pa.; John Roports, of Cincinnati; John Shane and wife; J. N. McCullough, Wm. Stewart, J. L. Gordon.

Frightful Suicide.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 17.—About a quarter past 1 o'clock this afternoon, an unknown man, thirty or forty years of age, jumped from the second outside gallery of the dome of the Capitol, and struck head first on the roof of the main building, at least one hundred and fifty feet below. Of course, he was killed instantly, his skull being horribly fractured. He leaped out so far as to almost clear the pediment of the central portico. One of the Capitol policemen recognized him as a shabbily-dressed white man who has been seen about the building for several days and who looked as if he were not altogether of sane mind. The dreadful occurrence naturally caused great excitement about the Capitol. The terrible leap was witnessed by a number of people who happened to be looking out of the various windows commanding a view of the front of the centre building, and the body was plainly visible on the roof for some time before it could be reached, in order to remove it. The Coroner was notified, and an inquest will be held this afternoon.

On the person of the deceased there was found a pawn ticket dated to-day, and signed by Heldenheimer, corner Fifteenth street and Pennsylvania avenue, for a vest, on which seventy-five cents had been advanced. Mr. H. states that the party gave the name of McMahon, residing at 420 N Street. A coroner's inquest was held late this afternoon. The jurors found the deceased was James McMahon, of this city, aged twenty-five years, and that he came to his death by suicide while under temporary derangement of mind. He had been studying at a Baltimore Catholic College for the priesthood, but was advised by his preceptors to return home. Latterly he had been working at the carpenter's trade with his brothers, and left his residence to-day apparently in good health. The father, who was before the jury, was unable to account for his son's conduct.

A Terrible Conflagration at Port Au Prince.

NEW YORK, February 19.—The steamship Alps, which arrived to day, brings the following particulars of the fire at Port au Prince. On the night of February 11, about 10:30 o'clock, a fire broke out in the city, which in a short time assumed a very great magnitude. The houses were principally of wood and very dry, and with the scarcity of water and only three small engines, with hose about garden size, it was impossible to operate against so formidable an enemy. The amount of damage done is estimated at $2,000,000. Two-thirds of the city has been burned to the ground, and six or seven hundred families rendered homeless. The fire is thought to have originated from the explosion of a barrel of kerosene. The fire was still burning when the Alps left, on the 12th.

Minnesota.

ST. PAUL, February 19.—The ballot to-day in joint convention of the Legislature resulted in the election of S. J. R. McMillan to the United States Senate, by a vote of eighty-two to sixteen for Lochren. The Senator elect is the present Chief Justice of the State Supreme Court, and is a man of unimpeachable integrity. He has always been a Republican, but having occupied for many years the benches of the District and Superior Courts, his participation in political affairs has been limited to casting his vote. He is about fifty years of age, and is a prominent member of the Presbyterian Church.

The Philadelphia Election.

PHILADELPHIA, February 17.—The election yesterday for Councils resulted in the choice of 22 Republicans and 8 Democrats to the select, and 55 Republicans and 15 Democrats to the Common Council. In the Third ward James L. Marshall, Democrat, was elected by 12 plurality over Harry Hunter, to fill the vacancy in the State Legislature caused by the death of William H. Fagan.

Burned Alive!

MCCONNELLSBURG, PA., Feb. 16—The house of D. B. Mellott, in this county, was burned to-day and three of his children were burned to death. Mr. and Mrs. Mellott went away on a visit and left the children locked in the house. On their return, a few hours afterwards, they found the bones of the children among the ruins.

New Advertisements.

SHERIFF'S SALES.

By virtue of sundry writs of Firi Facias and Venditioni Exponas, issued out of the Court of Common Pleas of Somerset County, Pa., and to me directed, I will sell by public outcry, at the Court House, in Somerset borough, on

Thursday, March 4th, 1875,

the following described real estate, viz:

All the right, title, interest and claim of Norman B. Liehliter of, in and to the following described real estate, to wit:

No. 1. A certain tract of land situate in Lower Turkeyfoot twp., Somerset county, Pa., containing 150 acres, more or less, of which there are about 100 acres cleared and about 10 acres in meadow, with a log dwelling house and log stable thereon erected, adjoining lands of Sylvester Herring, John Edge, Wm. H. Koontz, W. R. Thomas and a tract heretofore known as the Ohio Mitchell lands, with appurtenances.

No. 2. Two lots of ground situate in Ursina bor., Somerset county, Pa., and on the north side of Weyand avenue, and known on the general plan of said town as lots Nos. 242 and 243 with a 1½ story frame dwelling house thereon erected, bounded by old road on north and west and lot of George Saylor on the south and east, with the appurtenances. Taken in execution as the property of Norman B. Liehliter at the suit of M. D. Liehliter.

ALSO.

All the right, title, interest and claim of N. B. Liehliter of, in and to the following described real estate viz: two lots of ground situate in Ursina bor., Somerset county, Pa., on the north side of Weyand Avenue, and known on the plan of said town as lots Nos. 221 and 222, bounded by Second Street on the west and lot of of E. D. Yutzy on the east, being 37½ feet front and 150 feet deep, upon which is erected a two story frame store house, with the appurtenances. Taken in execution as the property of N. B. Liehliter at the suit of Emanuel Lichty.

ALSO.

All the right, title, interest and claim of Thomas Lowdermilk of, in and to the following described real estate, viz:

A certain lot of ground situate in Confluence bor., Somerset county, Pa., containing ¼ acre more or less, with a two story frame dwelling house and a 1½ story frame dwelling house thereon erected, adjoining Henry Moser on the west and Confluence Town Company on the northeast and fronting on street on the south, with the appurtenances. Taken in execution as the property of Thomas Lowdermilk at the suit of A. J. Colborn.

Ten per cent of the purchase money must be paid as soon as the property is sold and the balance when deed is delivered.

OLIVER KNEPPER,
feb 17. Sheriff.

A Valuable Farm for Sale.

The heirs of Jno. Scott, deceased, offer for sale their farm, situated three miles south of Brandonville, two of Bruceton, in Preston County, West Virginia, along the Kingwood and Brandonville turnpike, containing 392 acres, the majority of which is under a good state of cultivation, with a

Large New Frame House

and barn. Also, a good tenant house, with necessary outbuildings to both houses. The farm is well watered with abundance of good springs and a small stream which flows through it. Mills, smith and saddler shops, stores, school houses, churches, &c., are in proximate distance.

For further information apply to

THO. SCOTT,
feb10 Brandonville, West Va.

SEWING MACHINE AGENTS,

I have just what you want. Send for circular.

S. HOUGH,
feb17 203 Penn Ave., Pittsburgh, Pa.

AUDITOR'S NOTICE.

Emanuel Lichty, use, vs. Charles Earnest & Samuel D. Delp. } Common Pleas of Somerset County. No. 42, Jan. T. 1875, E. D. Vend. Ex.

William Earnest, vs. Same Defendants. } No. 183, January 7, 1875. E. D. Vend. Ex.

The undersigned auditor appointed by the Court of Common Pleas of Somerset County to distribute the funds arising of the Sheriff's sale of the real estate of the above named defendants, to and among those legally entitled thereto, hereby gives notice that he will attend to the duties of his appointment at the law office of the Messrs Baer Brothers, in the borough of Somerset, on Thursday, March 16, 1875, at 10 o'clock in the forenoon, when all persons interested can attend.

JOHN E. EDIE,
feb17 Auditor.

ADMINISTRATOR'S NOTICE.

Estate of Patrick Burns, deceased.

Letters of administration on the above estate having been granted to the undersigned by the proper authority, notice is hereby given to those indebted to it to make immediate payment, and those having claims against it will present them for settlement at the office of the administrator, on Thursday, March 25, 1875.

JOHN H. UHL,
feb17 Administrator.

New Advertisements.

NOTICE.

Notice is hereby given that John Brallier, of Berlin Borough, Somerset County, Pa., and Catharine, his wife, by deed of voluntary assignment, have assigned all the estate, real and personal, of the said John Brallier, to George Johnson and Peter Suder, of said county, in trust for the benefit of the creditors of the said John Brallier, all persons, therefore, indebted to the said John Brallier, will present their claims to the undersigned for settlement, on Saturday, the 20th of March, 1875, at the house of John Brallier, in Berlin Borough.

GEORGE JOHNSON,
PETER SUDER,
feb10 Trustees.

PUBLIC SALE.—

By virtue of an order issued out of the Orphans' Court of Somerset County, Pa., to the undersigned directed, there will be exposed to sale, by public outcry, on

Saturday, March 13th, 1875,

at 1 o'clock, on the premises, in Lower Turkeyfoot Township, the following described real estate, late the property of Israel Rhoads, late of said township, deceased:

A certain tract of land situate in Lower Turkeyfoot Township, Somerset County, Pa., adjoining lands of John Pasley, Mary Ann Earnest, Wm. L. Hoblitzell and John K. McMillen's heirs, containing 172 acres, more or less, being the home place of said deceased. There is a good two story log house, stable, spring house and other out buildings on the premises; also, two good apple orchards and a peach orchard bearing fruit of the choicest kind.

TERMS.—Twelve hundred dollars cash on the delivery of deed, and the balance of the purchase money in two equal annual payments without interest, to be secured by judgment bonds on the premises. The deed will be made as soon as possible after confirmation of sale by the Court. Ten per cent of the purchase money must be paid cash on day of sale.

JEROME B. JENNINGS,
feb10 Trustee.

ASSIGNEE'S NOTICE.

Notice is hereby given that James B. Lyons of Ursina Borough, Somerset County, Pa., by deed of voluntary assignment, has assigned all his estate real and personal to John H. Benford of the same place in trust for the benefit of the creditors of the said James B. Lyons. All persons, therefore, indebted to the said James B. Lyons, will make payment to the said Assignee, and those having claims or demands will make known the same without delay.

JOHN H. BENFORD,
Assignee.

MUSICAL INSTITUTE.

Prof. C. C. Case, of Gustavus, Ohio, will hold a Musical Institute at Somerset commencing on

Monday, February 22, 1875,

and continuing for the period of two weeks, five days in each week, and closing with a

GRAND VOCAL CONCERT.

It is designed to form two classes, one to be composed of children, and the other of adults. Two lessons of most thorough instruction will be given each class per day. Books and music will be furnished free of charge.

A rare opportunity is offered to all who wish to obtain thorough and practical instruction in vocal music. Tuition $1 per scholar.

Committees will be appointed to receive names of scholars and make arrangements for holding the Institute. feb10

ADMINISTRATOR'S NOTICE.

Estate of Mary Renn, late of Addison township, deceased.

Letters of administration on the above estate having been granted to the undersigned by the proper authority, notice is hereby given to those indebted to it to make immediate payment.

MARY A. McMILLEN,
feb.3. Administratrix.

PUBLIC SALE.

By virtue of an order issued out of the Orphans' Court of Somerset County, and to me directed, there will be exposed to public sale at the Court House in Somerset, on

FRIDAY, February 26th, 1875,

the following real estate, late the property of Samuel Will, deceased, viz:

No. 1. A tract of land situate one mile northeast of Somerset, containing 110 acres, adjoining lands of Jacob Koontz, Samuel Trent, Charles Will and others, all cleared and in a good state of cultivation. The land is of a good quality and has a vein of good coal opened upon it, and is well watered.

No. 2. A piece of timber land containing 27 acres, adjoining lands of Samuel Trent, Augustus Long and Charles Will. The land is of good quality and well timbered and watered.

No. 3. A piece of land containing 23½ acres, adjoining lands of Charles Will and Augustus Long, about 12 acres cleared; the balance is well timbered and has several good springs on it. The land is of most excellent quality